

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. The Office Action states that claims 11-17 are allowed and that claims 3, 4 and 6-10 recite allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-10 and 18-22 are amended. Claims 3, 4, and 6-10 are amended into independent form and are thus allowable.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,201,612 to Matsushiro et al. ("Matsushiro"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Matsushiro fails to disclose or teach all the features recited in claims 1, 5 and 18-22. Specifically, Matsushiro fails to disclose the feature of converting the input data of an individual pixel, which corresponds to the specific grayscale value of an individual pixel which specifies a grayscale of an image output apparatus which is substantially recited in claims 1, 5 and 18-22.

Instead, Matsushiro merely discloses a method and system in which the conversion is performed when pixels at two corners of each of the four sides of a block have absolute difference that is greater than an edge threshold to avoid problems. See Matsushiro column 5 lines 10-28.

Furthermore, although the Abstract of Matsushiro discloses "comparing each picture element individually with a threshold value, Matsushiro does not disclose the input of the data of an individual pixel, conversion of the data of an individual pixel and supplying the converted grayscale data of an individual pixel as substantially recited in claim 1, 5 and 18-22.

Regarding claim 2, since claim 2 depends from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is allowable for at least the reasons stated regarding claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 18-22 are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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